

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : **CRIMINAL NO.** _____
v. : **DATE FILED:** _____
TODD A. CARDIN : **VIOLATIONS:**
18 U.S.C. § 1344 (bank fraud – 1 count)

I N F O R M A T I O N

COUNT ONE

THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY CHARGES THAT:

At all times material to this information:

1. The Message Center, 19 East Lancaster Avenue, Paoli, Pennsylvania (“The Message Center”), was a small company that provided telephone answering and message services to a variety of businesses.
2. Defendant TODD A. CARDIN worked for The Message Center.
3. E.C. was the president of The Message Center.
4. The Message Center maintained a checking account at Commerce Bank with an account number ending in 4505 (the “Commerce Bank account”).
5. E.C. had sole signatory authority on The Message Center’s Commerce Bank account. Defendant TODD A. CARDIN was not authorized to sign The Message Center’s company checks.
6. Commerce Bank was a financial institution, the deposits of which were insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, certificate number 25293-0 .

7. EMS, International, Inc. (“EMS”) was a company controlled by CARDIN’s associate. EMS had a checking account at Sovereign Bank with an account number ending in 0743 (“the Sovereign account”), controlled by CARDIN’s associate.

8. Sovereign Bank was a financial institution, the deposits of which were insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, certificate number 29950-2.

9. From in or around March 1999 through in or around December 1999, in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and elsewhere, defendant

TODD A. CARDIN

knowingly executed, and attempted to execute, a scheme to defraud Commerce Bank and Sovereign Bank, and to obtain monies owned by and under the custody and control of Commerce Bank and Sovereign Bank, by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises.

THE SCHEME

10. From in or around March 1999 through in or around December 1999, defendant TODD A. CARDIN planned and executed a bank fraud scheme to fraudulently inflate bank account balances through the exchange of bogus checks between Commerce Bank and Sovereign Bank

11. Defendant TODD A. CARDIN drafted checks written against the Commerce bank account and forged the name of E.C. as the maker on the checks. He then caused the checks to be deposited into the Sovereign Bank account, knowing that there would be insufficient funds on deposit to cover the Commerce checks being issued, and causing the Sovereign account to reflect a falsely inflated balance.

12. Defendant TODD A. CARDIN received worthless Sovereign bank checks from EMS and deposited them into the Message Center's Commerce Bank account, knowing that there would be insufficient funds on deposit to cover the Sovereign checks being issued, and causing the Commerce account to reflect a falsely inflated balance.

13. For instance, on or about November 3 and 4, 1999, defendant TODD A. CARDIN deposited a worthless \$20,000 check drawn upon the Sovereign account into the Commerce account, enabling him to issue an apparently valid check in the amount of \$20,500 against the Commerce account, when the actual balance without that worthless deposit was substantially less than \$20,500. The effect of these fraudulent check passes was to create and conceal an actual negative balance of \$16,433 in the Commerce account.

14. By writing worthless checks against the Commerce bank account which exceeded the available balance in the account, and causing the depositing of the worthless checks into the Sovereign account, CARDIN was able to create a fraudulently inflated balance or "float" which ranged on a daily basis between \$3,100 and \$39,500 at these financial institutions.

15. Between March 1999 and December 1999, defendant TODD A. CARDIN issued and deposited, or caused to be cashed and redeposited, approximately 123 checks with a total face value of over \$1.3 million at the banks.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1344.

PATRICK L. MEEHAN
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY